

John Boehner
Chairman
8th District, Ohio

*House Meets at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour and 2:00 p.m. for Legislative Business
(No Votes Before 5:00 p.m.)*

Anticipated Floor Action:

- S.J.Res. 5—Waiving Certain Provisions of the Trade Act of 1974 Relating to
the Appointment of the U.S. Trade Representative**
H.R. 649—Department of Energy Standardization Act
H.R. 651—Extending the Deadline for a Hydroelectric Project in Washington State
H.R. 652—Extending the Deadline for a Hydroelectric Project in Washington State
**H.J. Res. 32—Granting Consent to Certain Amendments to the Hawaiian
Homes Commission Act of 1920**
H.R. 63—Designating Trinity Lake
H.R. 709—National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act
**H.Con.Res. 16—Concerning the Urgent Need to Improve the Living Standards
of South Asians Who Live in the Ganges and Brahmaputra River Basin**
**H.Res. 68—Sense of the House Concerning the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation
and Security Between the U.S. and Japan**
H.R. 750—Hong Kong Reversion Act
H.R. 914—Technical Amendments to the Higher Education Act



Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

Floor Situation: The House will consider the following 11 bills under suspension of the rules as its only order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

S.J. Res. 5—Waiving Certain Provisions of the 1974 Trade Act Relating to the Appointment of the U.S. Trade Representative waives Trade Act provisions that prohibit persons who represent or have previously represented foreign governments from serving as head of the U.S. Trade Representative’s office. Approval of this resolution allows Charlene Barshefsky to be sworn in as U.S. Trade Representative (USTR). On Wednesday, March 5, the Senate confirmed her nomination by a vote of 99-1. However, before being sworn to her newly-appointed post she must be granted a congressional waiver because of her previous work for a foreign government. Barshefsky, a lawyer by training, represented the government of Canada before working for USTR. S.J.Res. 5 passed by the Senate by a vote of 98-2 and was referred to the House on March 6, 1997; the resolution was not considered by any House committee.

H.R. 649—Department of Energy Standardization Act amends the Department of Energy Organization Act (DEOA) to conform the department’s governing laws to those of other executive departments. Specifically, the bill (1) repeals requirements that DOE publish analyses of proposed regulations in the *Federal Register*; (2) repeals the 30-day public comment period for proposed rulemaking; (3) subjects the Energy Department to the same requirements that apply to other executive agencies regarding public property, loans, grants, or contracts; and (4) repeals requirements that departmental advisory committees hold meetings open to the public. CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 649 will result in discretionary savings of approximately \$500,000 a year over the next five years. The bill was introduced by Mr. Schaefer and Mr. Hall (TX) and ordered reported by the Commerce Committee by voice vote.

H.R. 651 and H.R. 652—Bills to Extend the Construction Deadline for Certain Hydroelectric Projects. Each bill extends the deadline under the Federal Power Act for commencing construction of hydroelectric power projects in King County, Washington. H.R. 651 extends the deadline for commencing construction of a 5.4 megawatt project (Project No. 8864) for an additional six years, thereby extending the overall deadline for commencing construction for up to 10 years. H.R. 652 extends the deadline for commencing construction of a 6.3 megawatt project (Project No. 9025) for an additional six years. CBO estimates that enactment of these bills will have no significant effect on the federal budget. Both bills were introduced by Mr. White and ordered reported by the Commerce Committee.

H.J.Res. 32—Granting Congressional Consent to Certain Amendments to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act grants congressional consent to two amendments to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920 that were enacted by the Hawaii State legislature in 1993 and 1994. The first amendment authorizes the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to obtain homeowner’s insurance coverage for leaseholders and to issue revenue bonds to facilitate disaster relief efforts. The second permits grandchildren of a Native Hawaiian leaseholder to assume the remainder of the home lease should that individual die. CBO estimates that enactment will result in no significant cost to the federal government. The bill was introduced by Mr. Abercrombie and ordered reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote.

H.R. 63—Designating Trinity Lake redesignates the reservoir created by Trinity Dam in the California Central Valley Project as “Trinity Lake.” The reservoir is currently designated as “Clair Engle Lake,” a name bestowed on the lake by Congress in 1964 in honor of the late Congressman Clair Engle; because Congress designated the lake previously, legislation is required to change the name. CBO estimates that enactment will result in no significant cost to the federal government. The bill was introduced by Mr. Herger and ordered reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote.

H.R. 709—National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act reauthorizes and amends the 1992 National Geologic Mapping Act (NGMA; *P.L. 102-285*), which authorizes matching funds for geologic mapping of bedrock and surface terrain. The bill reduces from 16 to 10 the number of members of the advisory committee to the director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) on planning and implementation, and authorizes the use of \$84 million of existing USGS budget authority over the next three years for the program. CBO estimates that enactment will result in no significant cost to the federal government. The bill was introduced by Mrs. Cubin and ordered reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote.

H.Con.Res.16—Concerning the Urgent Need to Improve the Living Standards of South Asians Who Live in the Ganges and Brahmaputra congratulates the governments of Bangladesh and India for their recent agreement on sharing the water of the Ganges River as well as the governments of India and Nepal on their treaty enabling the joint development of the water resources of the Mahakali River. Furthermore, the resolution encourages the three governments to continue their cooperation to relieve the poverty of those people living in the Ganges and Brahmaputra river basin. Finally, the resolution urges international financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, and the international community to offer whatever advice, encouragement, and assistance is appropriate to help in this effort. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Bereuter and was ordered reported by the International Relations Committee by voice vote.

H.Res. 68—Sense of the House Concerning the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security Between the U.S. and Japan expresses the sense of the House that the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan is essential for furthering the security interests of both the U.S. and Japan, as well as the countries of the Asia-Pacific region. Furthermore, it expresses that the people of Okinawa deserve special recognition for their contributions toward ensuring the treaty's implementation and promoting regional peace and stability. The resolution was introduced by Messrs. Hamilton, Bereuter, and Berman and was ordered reported by the International Relations Committee by voice vote.

H.R. 750—Hong Kong Reversion Act reiterates support for the autonomy of Hong Kong and the future well-being of its people. The bill outlines circumstances under which the president may modify the application of U.S. law with respect to Hong Kong if the People's Republic of China (PRC) fails to honor its commitment to give Hong Kong a high degree of autonomy after taking control of the island on July 1, 1997. The bill was introduced by Mr. Bereuter and was reported by the International Relations Committee by voice vote.

H.R. 914—Technical Amendments to the Higher Education Act amends the student right-to-know provisions of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to conform reporting requirements for the graduation rate of student athletes to the reporting requirements for the graduation rate of the student body at-large. CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 914 will result in no significant cost to the federal government. The bill was introduced by Mr. McKeon and Mr. Kildee and ordered reported by the Committee on Education and the Workforce by voice vote.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #6, March 7, 1997.

